



***Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power***

[illegible]

Pastor	Director of Music	Financial Secretary	Office Manager
• John King	• David Debick	• Joy Garapic	• Anne Melfo

Ministers – All of Our Members

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming ALL of God's children.

*Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated,
or partnered,*

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

We welcome one another to this place,

Even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!



- *Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.*
- *Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.*

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!

UCC Racial Justice Sunday- February 12th, 2023

Prelude

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

*"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!"
(Words and Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972; © 1972 Maranatha! Music)*

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*"I'd rather be excluded for who I include than included for who I exclude."
- Rev. Eston Williams*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: Show me what community looks like.

Many: This is what community looks like.

Leader: Show me what God looks like.

Many: This is what God looks like.

Leader: Show me what the Reign of God looks like.

Many: This is what the Reign of God looks like.

Leader: Show me what justice looks like.

Many: This is what justice looks like.

Leader: Show me what worship looks like.

Many: This is what worship looks like.

Leader: Show me what the movement looks like.

Many: This is what the movement looks like.

Leader: Beloved community, we gather to experience the movement of the Spirit, moving us to build a community of compassion, of mercy, of justice and peace. Moving with that Spirit, let us gather now in prayer and practice.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

#18

*** Invocation [Unison]**

Great God-Gardener, Creator of all living things, you live with us today, shining like the February sun, peeking through the clouds and promising more growth tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. The crocus tells us you are hidden, waiting patiently, just below the surface of things and the snow-drops make vows you alone can keep. May we find you in every blooming thing beneath the shroud of snow. May we see you in the brightness of this new day. Amen.

*** Assurance of God's Call**



Jackie Cassara
Jenn, Nate, Amelia & Edison Elting
Ann Kelley
Craig Ramsey
Pat Rolfe
Karen Sandstrom
Connie Schultz & Sherrod Brown

Invitation

Statement from Scripture

Questions of New Members

*** Congregational Welcome**

People: We welcome you joyfully as members of this congregational family. We will walk this path with you. We promise you our friendship, our support and our prayers. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's grace and give witness to Jesus Christ by our faith, our hope and our love.

*** Closing Prayer**

*** Greeting of Christian Love**

Pastor and Representatives: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Brecksville United Church of Christ, we welcome you as members of this church.

*** Song of Praise:**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glory, glory, glory –
glory to God in the highest! (2X's)
And on earth be peace to all people,
for God loves us all! (2X's)

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading **1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-19, 26-27 (The Inclusive Bible)**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 22: 34-40 (The Inclusive Bible)**

Continuing Testament By the Officers of the UCC



Time With Young Worshippers



Anthem

To Follow You

de Silva, arr. Debick

1. *Who are you, God? And who am I?*

What are you calling me to be?

*When I listen to my heart, I can hear you whisper,
asking me, lovingly, to come and follow you.*

Refrain: Here I am, did I hear you call my name?

Here I am, as you will.

Speak, my God, I am ready to begin.

Here I am, I come to follow you.

2. *I've traveled long and far to follow you.*

A stranger and a pilgrim in this world.

Sometimes I wonder what this journey will bring.

And you guide me, faithfully to find a home in you. (Refrain)

3. *My heart sings of the love that I've found in you,*

a love that dwells in all of your creation.

Sometimes I wonder what tomorrow brings.

Give me the grace to love and to be faithful, to be more like you.

This is what I want, this is what I seek,

this is what I desire with all my heart. (Refrain)

(Music: Chris de Silva, b. 1967; words de Silva and Lovina Francis Pammit, OSF; Copyright © 2008. GIA Publications, Inc.; arr. D. Debick)

Sermon by Pastor John King

The Church at Prayer

The family and friends of Jeanne Cowden, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Suzanne Patrick, George Snider, Dorie Gabor, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Phyllis Hassler, Jeanne Cowden, Rose Kaval, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Betty Kaul, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Jon Thompson, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), family and friends of Lenore Harris, friends of Bill Toneff, "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord's Prayer: [UNISON]

...Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

***The Invitation**

*** Offertory Hymn** We bring our gifts because we care,
 They are a part of what we share.
 Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
 With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen.

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

Leader: For what is MINE, Holy One, we say:

Assembly: Thank you.

Leader: Through our offering, teach us the joy that comes from sharing. For what is YOURS, Holy One, we say:

Assembly: Thank you.

(Continued on next page)

*** Prayer of Dedication (*continued*)**

Leader: In our offering, teach us the healing power of restoring what was lost, and healing what was broken. For what is OURS, Holy One, we say:

Assembly: Thank you.

Leader: By our contributions, empower us to create new relationships of justice and equity and build a new Reign of flourishing for all, in God's economy of love. Amen.



Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Eat This Bread

#788

Prayer after Communion: [UNISON]

One: Let us pray:

All: Holy God, Creator, Wisdom, Spirit, we have been nourished in this meal at the table you set for us. As we go from this place, may our encounter with holiness inspire us to explore creation in new ways. May we be unafraid to experience the joy of discovery, the wonder of unexpected outcomes, and the peace of knowing that all creation belongs to you. Amen.

Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure

Community of Christ

#314



Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

* Circle of Community

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah**. After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical notation is for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on the first staff, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' below it. The second staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on the second staff, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' below it. Chord symbols are written above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

Benediction

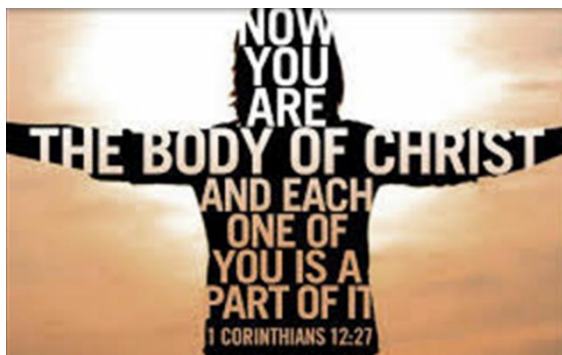
Postlude

You Are the Seed (Sois la Semilla)

Gabaraín

*"Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love."*

(Copyright © 1979, Cesáreo Gabaraín. Published by OCP Publications)



Announcements:

THANK YOU to Rob Grow, who kindly stepped in last week while Pastor John was out sick. On very short notice, Rob stepped up to cover both Jeanne Cowden's funeral and Sunday's service. Rob, you are appreciated more than words can say!

MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION - There will be no meditation group this week and the following Wednesday (2/15 and 2/22). Sessions will resume on March 1 at 11 am.
Thanks! – Carol

MARDI GRAS – Please join us next Sunday, 2/19, for our Mardi Gras service and Potluck. If you haven't already, sign up with Kathy Smith today after the service, to bring either a Main Course, a Side Dish or a Salad. Cajun or Mardi Gras themed food is suggested, but is just an option for anyone who chooses to bring something. There is no need for desserts, as King Cakes will be provided. (King Cake is from the story of the 3 Kings, is iced in Mardi Gras colors, and there is a miniature plastic baby Jesus inside each cake to signify the Epiphany. If you find the baby Jesus you are a king!) Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!!

SOUPS ON! Our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper happens on February 22nd this year. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall for soup at 6:30 pm, followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a loaf of bread to share (those with last names beginning with N-Z will be asked to contribute bread on Maundy Thursday).

Side Note: We're still looking for one volunteer to make soup for Maundy Thursday. If you're looking for an eager and appreciative audience to try out a new recipe, or if you already know you make a BUCC favorite, please let Betsey know. We would need about 30-40 servings (approximately 1 ½ gallons) for the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, on April 6th. Thank you!

MUSIC – If you'd like to hear more contemporary music at Sunday services, please feel free to contact Dave Debick with song titles or names of performers you're interested in. His church email is: buccmusic23@gmail.com . We can't promise that sheet music will be available for every request, but your input/feedback is always welcome and appreciated.

Attendance on Sunday, February 5, 2023 – Adults: 53; Kids: 6; Live Stream: 13; Total: 72

Readings

First Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-19, 26-27 (The Inclusive Bible Translation)

There is a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit. There is a variety of ministries, but we serve the same One. There is a variety of outcomes, but the same God is working in all of them. To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

The body is one, even though it has many parts; all the parts—many though they are—comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. And that Body is not one part; it is many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” does that make it any less a part of the body? If the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” would that make it any less a part of the body? If the body were all eye, what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our sense of smell? Instead of that, God put all the different parts into one body on purpose. If all the parts were alike, where would the body be?

If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy. You, then, are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 22: 34-40 (The Inclusive Bible Translation)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: “Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?”

Jesus answered: “ ‘You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.’ That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well.”

Readings

Continuing Testament – A Prayer of Lament, shared by the Officers of the UCC on Jan 27, 2023

The United Church of Christ joins all whose anger, grief, and horror have been triggered by the recent beating by Memphis police officers that resulted in the tragic death of Tyre Nichols.

People of faith must lift their voices in anger, in outrage, and in grief over this tragic killing. Our lament will continue until every mother's child knows they can walk the streets without worrying that those mandated with protecting us are the danger we fear or face.

In memory of Tyre Nichols, and in solidarity with his mother, his family, his loved ones, and with the collective voice of all who feel this deep pain we offer our own lament.

God whose image every child bears, hear us as we cry out in grief over the tragic loss of our brother Tyre.

God whose vision for the world is Shalom, hear us as we cry out for an end to brutality and violence at the hands of peace officers.

God whose hope is that all will be treated with respect, hear us as we express our outrage at another black body mauled and left without breath by those wearing a badge.

God whose justice we long for, hear us as we grieve another tragic and untimely death from those who lord their power over others.

God whose love conquers all, hear our cry now for love to heal a grieving mother as she buries her son and who had to suffer the indignity of visiting his broken body in the hospital.

Hear our cry.

Receive our lament.

Transform our anger into action, our fear into hope, our brokenness into healing.

This is our prayer.

Amen.

The Elected Officers of the United Church of Christ:

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister and Vice President

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, Associate General Minister and Vice President

The Rev. Mary W. Nelson, Conference Minister, Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC

Special Thanks:

February 12, 2023

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Bill Witt
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteers Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteers Needed***
A/V Team: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Kathy Ford
Lois Lorenzo
Sue Stenzel
Set Up/Serve: Sue & Cliff Stenzel
Clean Up: Sue & Cliff Stenzel
Snow Herder: ***Volunteer Needed***

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Dave Bernard
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteers Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteers Needed***
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Snack: ***POTLUCK***
Set Up/Serve: ***Volunteers Needed***
Clean Up: Kathy Pastor
Volunteers Needed
Snow Herder: ***Volunteers Needed***